



State of Utah

Department of
Natural Resources

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NEWS RELEASE

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New Utah Coal Report

The Utah Energy Office has released the Annual Review and Forecast of Utah Coal: Production and Distribution for 2003. Utah mines produced 23.1 million tons of coal in 2003, down nearly 10 percent from 2002. The average price paid for Utah coal also declined last year, resulting in total estimated coal mine revenues below \$400 million dollars for the first time in 16 years. In keeping with long-term national trends, distribution of Utah coal to electric utilities rose during 2003, while distribution to industrial users declined. In total, distribution of Utah coal is down 15 percent from historic high demand in 1996, mostly due to a decline in coal exports to foreign countries.

Coal is vital to the economy, supplying about half of all U.S. electricity demand and more than 90 percent of power demand in Utah. Also, Utah sends about 9.6 million tons of coal to electric utilities and industrial uses in other states.

The 2003 Utah Coal Report is part of an on-going series of reports prepared by the Utah Energy Office within the Utah Department of Natural Resources. The Utah Coal Report can be viewed on the Utah Energy Office website at www.energy.utah.gov, along with other energy-related topics. Comments and questions should be directed to Jon Allred at 801-538-4713 or jonallred@utah.gov. For other energy-related questions please call the Energy Hotline at 1-800-662-3633.

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